

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04159 111116Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W  
-----004278 111322Z /43

R 111035Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4220  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4159

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, SHUM, CH, TW, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF PRC DEFECTOR FAN YUAN-YEN

REF: (A) TAIPEI 4068, (B) TAIPEI 4118, (C)TAIPEI 4129

1. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO QUOTE DEFECTOR FAN ON LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HARDSHIP CONDITIONS, AND INTERNAL DISORDER ON THE MAINLAND, IN ADDITION TO PUBLISHING APPEALS TO THE "FREE PRESS" AND THE USG TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE RELEASE OF HIS FAMILY TO JOIN HIM IN TAIWAN. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO EXCERPT FAN'S PRECISE MEANING FROM TEXTS WHICH BEGIN WITH LEADING QUESTIONS OR ARE OBVIOUSLY OUT TO ACHIEVE DESIRED EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT, CERTAIN STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPEATED WITH ENOUGH REGULARITY TO SUGGEST THEY CAN ACCURATELY BE ATTRIBUTED TO FAN. FAN DISCOUNTS THE  
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POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRC WILL "LIBERATE TAIWAN BY FORCE," ON THE GROUNDS THAT PRC FORCES ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH, AND SEES LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THE PRC LAUNCHING AN ATTACK ON TAIWAN BECAUSE "THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH IS NOT UP TO THE MARK." OTHER QUOTATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO FAN ARE SO SELF-SERVING AS TO BE HIGHLY SUSPECT, FOR EXAMPLE, "THE COMMUNIST TROOPS ON THE MAINLAND HAVE LOST THEIR FAITH IN THE COMMUNIST

LONG AGO AND ALL OF THEM WOULD DEFECT IF ONLY THEY COULD GET A CHANCE." FAN HAS CONSISTENTLY PAINTED A PICTURE OF POVERTY ON THE MAINLAND AND HARDSHIP AND UNREST WITHIN THE PRC MILITARY WHICH HAS BEEN EAGERLY EXPLOITED BY THE LOCAL PRESS.

2. HEAVY EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON FAN'S STATEMENTS REGARDING CONCERN FOR TREATMENT OF HIS FAMILY AND THE LACK OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE MAINLAND. REGARDING HIS FAMILY, FAN REPORTEDLY SAID "I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY, BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THEM NOW. AND I'M SURE THEY WILL BE TORTURED BY THE COMMUNISTS BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID..... IF MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY CAN ACT ON THEIR OWN WILL, I BELIEVE THEY WILL DEFINITELY CHOOSE TO JOIN ME IN TAIWAN."

3. COMMENT: FAN'S DEFECTION HAS BECOME A FULL-SCALE MEDIA EVENT. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN LESS THAN SUBTLE IN TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM BASIC KMT PRINCIPLES AND TO ATTACK THE THRUST OF CURRENT USG CHINA POLICY. WHILE TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIFIC ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE EMBASSY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM MAY LEAD TO MEDIA-DIRECTED PUBLIC RELATIONS STUNT DESIGNED TO CONFRONT WHAT ARE SEEN HERE AS BASIC INCONSISTENCIES IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOREIGN POLICY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JULY 9 LIEN HO PAO CARRIED A READER'S SUGGESTION THAT A LETTER

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TO BE SIGNED BY A MILLION PEOPLE HERE BE WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER, ASKING HIM TO INSTRUCT SECRETARY VANCE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PRC FOR THE RELEASE OF FAN'S FAMILY WHEN HE GOES TO PEKING IN AUGUST. A THWP (TA HUA WNA PAO) EDITORIAL SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO MET WITH SOVIET DISSIDENT(S) (SIC), SHOULD INVITE FAN TO MEET HIM AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND REQUEST THAT THE PRC RELEASE FAN'S FAMILY, IF PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT HAVE A DOUBLE STANDARD TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUGGESTIONS OF THIS NATURE COULD GAIN POPULARITY, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM THE ROC, IN AN ATTEMPT TO AFFECT CURRENT REVIEW OF US CHINA POLICY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINR, SHUM, CH, TW, US, (FAN YUAN-YEN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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